MARVEL

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SPIDER-GWEN: SHADOW CLONES

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11.22

WHEN TEENAGER GWEN STACY SUITS UP IN HER SYNTHETIC SYMBIOTIC SUIT, SHE GAINS AMAZING POWERS: A PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES AND THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED AND STRENGTH OF A SPIDER. NOW SHE USES HER POWERS FOR GOOD AS THE SUPER HERO CALLED GHOST-SPIDER. BUT YOU KNOW HER AS...

SPIDER-GWEN: SHADOW CLONES

GWEN STACY HAS BEEN ENJOYING HER LIFE, A PART-TIME JOB, A NEW CRUSH, AND OF COURSE HER USUAL HEROICS AS GHOST-SPIDER!

RECENTLY, GWEN HAD A RUN IN WITH THE DISPLACED SINISTER SIX OF EARTH-616, BUT SHE WAS ULTIMATELY SUCCESSFUL IN SENDING THEM BACK TO THEIR OWN DIMENSION. UNFORTUNATELY, ONE CASUALTY OCCURRED FROM A DELAYED VULTURE BOMB.

WHILE ON PATROL, GHOST-SPIDER HAD ANOTHER RUN-IN WITH DOC OCK. IT TURNED OUT TO BE A MANIPULATED CLONE OF HER MIXED WITH DOC OCK! AFTER DISLODGING THE DEVICE CONTROLLING THE CLONE, BOTH RUSHED TO KID GENIUS REED RICHARDS TO FIGURE OUT THEIR NEXT COURSE OF ACTION!

NOW GWEN, DOC OCK GWEN, AND REED FACE OFF WITH ANOTHER GWEN CLONE!

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CRSHH

MY TEN-CORE HYPERLAKE CPU BETTER BE OKAY AFTER THIS!

REED RICHARDS' APARTMENT. CURRENTLY UNDER ATTACK BY A GWEN STACY CLONE.

REED, RUN TO THE GROCER DOWN ON 8TH. **STAY THERE** UNTIL I COME FOR YOU.

AND YOU? YOU'RE GONNA TAKE ON THE SANDY CLONE?

YEAH. I GOTTA GET A HANDLE ON ALL THESE GWENS. THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH **ME** UP THERE.

DON'T WORRY, REED. I'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU CAN COME UP WITH YOUR NEXT GENIUS HYPOTHESIS.

DON'T LET HER SMASH ANY MORE STUFF, GWEN! I JUST BUILT A NEW MOTHERBOARD WITH A NEXT-GEN CHIPSET!

TOOK FIVE MONTHS FOR ALL THE PARTS TO COME IN...

=SIGH=

OKAY, AS ANY BABYSITTER CAN TELL YOU, TOO MANY KIDS IN A SANDBOX MAKES FOR A MESSY PLAYDATE.

THRSSH

STOP BLABBERING AND **HELP** ME!

SNATCH

GWEN OCK! WE GOTTA MOVE THIS SHINDIG TO **ANYWHERE** BUT HERE.

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

FOLLOW ME, FELLOW ME'S.

BAM

ANOTHER IMPLANT. JUST LIKE THE ONE THAT WAS CONTROLLING GWEN OCK.

GWEN OCK! SHE'S GOT A HALO. TRY TO GRAB IT!

ON IT!

CRUNCH

GAH!

OOPS...

UMPH.

THUNK

WHOOOSH

I KNEW WE SHOULD'VE STAYED IN THE APARTMENT.

=SIGH=

BACK AT REED RICHARDS' APARTMENT.

FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, THE CODE ON THE IMPLANT CONTINUOUSLY UPDATES A UNIQUE **NEURAL NETWORK,** WHICH IS WHAT ALLOWS IT TO **HIJACK** THE BRAIN'S MAIN FUNCTIONS.

YEAH, I GATHERED IT WAS MIND-CONTROLLING MY CLONES **AFTER** GWEN OCK HERE WENT ALL TERMINATOR T-1000 ON ME.

WELL, SUCH A COMPLEX MODEL CAN ONLY BE UPLINKED THROUGH A POWERFUL SIGNAL. REALLY POWERFUL.

I CAN INSTALL A SNIFFER ON GWEN OCK'S IMPLANT AND CROSS-REFERENCE IT WITH POWER SPIKES ON THE GRID TO TRACK DOWN THE OTHER IMPLANT--THE ONE ON SANDMAN...

...I MEAN, SANDMAN GWEN...

...I MEAN...

SANDGWEN?

I GUESS. IF YOU CAN REMOVE SANDGWEN'S IMPLANT AND BRING IT TO ME, THEN I CAN USE BOTH TO TRIANGULATE THE SIGNALS AND FIGURE OUT **WHERE** THE SERVER IS.

SO WE CAN FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS?

SO I CAN TRY TO SHUT IT DOWN.

REED, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO HELP.

WHY? YOU CAN'T TAKE BACK YOUR JUICE-DISCOUNT OFFER.

YOU STILL GET THE DISCOUNT. I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO BE PUT IN DANGER AGAIN.

BUT YOU'VE ALREADY GOTTEN ME INVESTED. I CAN'T STOP NOW. PLUS, SANDGWEN WAS CLEARLY AFTER THE TWO OF YOU.

SO AS LONG AS YOU GUYS STAY AWAY FROM ME, I SHOULD BE FINE.

KID'S RIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW...

GO ON. GO DO SOME SUPER-HEROING. OR SUPER-GWENNING. I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I HAVE SANDGWEN'S LOCATION.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO, GWEN OCK.

REED, I--

I KNOW. YOU'RE WELCOME.

WE SHOULD HEAD HOME AND TALK STRATEGY.

STRATEGY?

ABOUT HOW TO REMOVE SANDGWEN'S IMPLANT. IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, SHE'S TRICKY TO GRAB HOLD OF.

MY STRATEGY IS TO SEE AND SMASH.

AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED. YOU SMASHED A HOLE IN THE GROUND, AND WE LOST HER.

WHICH NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU HADN'T MADE US MOVE. OF COURSE A SAND-BASED BEING IS GOING TO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE IN AN OPEN SPACE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME...IN FACT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE HERE ***AT ALL.*** I CAN DO THIS ON MY OWN.

I'M THE ONE WHO FOUND OUT I'M A CLONE. THE REST OF MY LIFE DEPENDS ON FINDING WHO'S BEHIND THIS. IF ANYONE IS GOING TO DO THIS ON THEIR OWN, IT'S ME.

I AM ***LITERALLY*** A COPY OF YOU.

DON'T COPY WHAT I SAY.

DON'T REMIND ME.

HMPH!

IF YOU'RE REALLY ME... DOES THAT MEAN YOU HAVE ALL MY MEMORIES?

I'M NOT SURE...

THERE.

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

THEY'RE ALL OVER. THIS PLACE HAS **THIRTEEN** BEDROOMS.

JACKPOT.

SPLAT

JACKPOT IS RIGHT.

EVERYONE ABORT! ABORT!

HUH?

AHHH!

YOU KNOW, THESE GUYS REMIND ME OF ANOTHER CREW, ONE THAT WAS TARGETING AUCTION HOUSES.

I REMEMBER THEM! THEY WORKED FOR A HIGH-END FENCE WHO TRAVELED IN BOUGIE CIRCLES.

THAT'S RIGHT. SO, YOU ***DO*** HAVE MY MEMORIES. WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER?

LET ME THINK...

I REMEMBER MY BEST FRIEND DYING IN MY ARMS AND CRYING IN MY ROOM FOR MONTHS AFTERWARD...

I REMEMBER MY DAD WAITING UP FOR ME TO COME HOME BUT THEN FALLING ASLEEP ON THE COUCH WITH THE TV STILL GOING.

AND NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TOLD HIM NOT TO WAIT UP, HE STILL DID IT.

YEAH!

BUT DAD'S NOT TOO BAD. THE **REAL** NAGGY ONE IS--

MJ.

YES!

SHE'S ALWAYS TELLING ME WHAT I'M DOING WRONG AND HOW I'M MISSING OUT ON STUFF.

EXACTLY. BUT I HAVE TO SAY, I'M GLAD SHE STICKS AROUND. SOMETIMES, I WORRY...

WELL...

YOU'RE WORRIED ONE DAY SHE'LL GET SICK OF YOU AND LEAVE.

YEAH...

AND THEN WE'LL **REALLY** BE ALONE.

I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE THAT.

WE'RE STILL HERE, YOU KNOW.

IT'S DIALING THE POLICE. I'D TELL THEM WHERE YOU ARE IF I WERE YOU. THIS POSITION **CAN'T** BE GOOD FOR YOUR BACK.

BACK AT GWEN STACY'S HOME.

YOUR DAD LEFT A NOTE--SAYS HE'S WORKING LATE AT THE STATION. HE THINKS "YESTERDAY'S BREAK-IN IS CONNECTED TO THE ONE FROM A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO."

FROZEN PIZZA FOR DINNER IT IS, THEN.

Y'KNOW, ONE TIME AT SCHOOL, I FOUND A HIDDEN LADDER TO THE ROOF. I WENT UP THERE TO EAT THE FROZEN PIZZA THE CAFETERIA SERVED BY MYSELF, SO THE BULLIES COULDN'T FIND ME.

THAT'S NOT ONE OF MY MEMORIES. THAT MUST BE DOC OCK.

I GUESS I REALLY AM AN AMALGAM OF YOU TWO.

KNOCK KNOCK

KNOCK KNOCK

COMING!

MATEO?

HEY, GWEN. YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR YOUR SHIFT, SO I GOT WORRIED. JUST WANTED TO CHECK THAT YOU'RE OKAY.

I'M SORRY, SOMETHING...CAME UP. IS THERE ANY WAY YOU COULD COVER FOR ME?

NO PROBLEM, I GOT YOU.

AND DON'T FORGET WE STILL HAVE THAT ***DATE*** TO FINISH.

SO IT **WAS** A DATE.

SOOOO... WHO WAS THAT?

UH. JUST A CO-WORKER.

UH-HUH. A CO-WORKER WHO FELT THE NEED TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO CHECK ON YOU. RATHER THAN TEXT OR CALL.

HE'S...VERY RESPONSIBLE.

AND VERY CUTE.

IS HE? I GUESS SO.

I MEAN, HE'S NICE AND ALL. AND MAYBE I HAVE ***SOME*** FEELINGS FOR HIM...BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M TOO BUSY FOR STUFF LIKE THAT.

I GET IT. YOU HAVE GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES. HE'S JUST A NORMIE WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

OF COURSE IT IS. THE TRUTH IS, WE'RE BETTER THAN MOST. IT'S JUST A FACT. SO YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THOSE WHO ARE BENEATH YOU HAVE TO ADAPT TO ***YOUR*** NEEDS.

THAT'S THE DOC OCK PART OF YOU TALKING.

DOESN'T MAKE IT UNTRUE.

DING

IT'S REED. HE HAS A LOCATION ON SANDGWEN. HE'S SENDING THE PIN NOW.

READY FOR ROUND TWO?

STARK INDUSTRIES

THIS IS IT.

I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE.

THIS WAS MY MISSION. ***THIS*** IS WHERE I WAS GOING WHEN YOU RAN INTO ME AT THE CARNIVAL.

WHY?

IT'S HARD TO RECALL. THE IMPLANT WAS IN CONTROL-- IT WAS DIRECTING ME TO GO AFTER SOMETHING...

THAT'S RIGHT-- I REMEMBER NOW. I WAS AFTER A ***SOLID-STATE QUANTUM POWER SOURCE.*** IT'S LIKE A SUPERCHARGED BATTERY PACK.

THAT MUST BE WHAT SANDGWEN'S HERE FOR.

THERE WERE BLUEPRINTS OF THIS PLACE IN MY HEAD. THERE'S A LOADING BAY IN THE BACK THAT MAKES FOR THE BEST ENTRY POINT.

THERE SHE IS.

AND SHE'S GOT THE POWER SOURCE.

THWP

YOINK

I REALIZE NOW THAT WE NEVER ACTUALLY CAME UP WITH A GAME PLAN.

LIKE I SAID, SEE AND...

...GRAB SAND?

HOLD MY DRINK.

WEIRD. HER HEAD DIDN'T CHANGE INTO SAND...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I DON'T THINK IT EVER HAS.

THE HALO MUST KEEP HER FROM BEING ABLE TO PHASE-SHIFT COMPLETELY.

GWEN OCK! LET HER TRAP YOU IN SAND.

WHAT?!

TRUST ME. I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

IF I DIE, I'M BLAMING YOU!

THAT'S IT-- USE ALL YOUR SAND UP.

SO THAT YOU HAVE NONE LEFT...

...WHEN I DO THIS.

HN?

SHE'S SLEEPING?

GIVE HER A MINUTE. SHE'LL WAKE UP LIKE YOU DID.

SANDGWEN FAILED ME. I EXPECTED MORE FROM HER.

THEN AGAIN, SHE WAS OUT-NUMBERED.

BUT NEXT TIME...

...THE NUMBERS WILL BE ON OUR SIDE.

NEXT: CLONES UNLEASHED!

NEXT ISSUE:

THE END OF GWEN?

SPIDER-GWEN IS IMPRISONED, AND THE ONLY HOPE SHE HAS RESTS ON HER VERY OWN CLONES! BUT IS IT TOO LATE? LYLA GEARS UP TO ACT OUT HER FINAL REVENGE AGAINST GWEN--ONE THAT WILL AFFECT THE ENTIRE MULTIVERSE!

EMAIL US AT ***MHEROES@MARVEL.COM*** *AND MARK* ***"OKAY TO PRINT"!***

ZONE